

Spatial Diffusion in SIR type Models: Simulation for Covid-19 Data

Matteo Bracco

April 8, 2025

Introduction



Ceva, Cuneo, Italy



Università degli Studi di Torino (UniTO)



Linnaeus University, Växjö, Sweden



E-Mail: matteo.bracco000@gmail.com



GitHub: [Bac0000](#)



2022

Bachelor
Degree in
Mathematics
at UniTO



2023-2024

Tutoring in
Numerical
Analysis and
Calculus



2024

Master
Degree in
Mathematics
at UniTO



2024-2025

Fellowship in
Biostatistics at
the Clinical
Department
Science - UniTO

Introduction

Skills

Bio-mathematics and Bio-statistics,
Dynamical Systems, Complex Systems,
Neural Networks, MonteCarlo
Simulations, Assurance and Financial
Mathematic

Modeling



Coding

R, Python, MATLAB, Maple, C++

LaTeX, Git, manim (python graphic
tool).
English language, level C1

Programs and Languages



The SIR model

Total Population: $N = S(t) + I(t) + R(t)$

● Infected (I) ● Susceptibles (S) ● Removed (R)

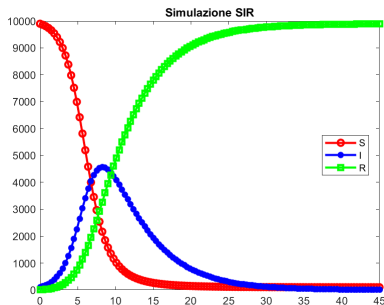


Figure: Numeric Simulation of the SIR model

Model Equations

$$\begin{cases} \dot{S} = -\frac{\beta}{N}S(t)I(t) \\ \dot{I} = -\frac{\beta}{N}S(t)I(t) - \gamma I(t) \\ \dot{R} = \gamma I(t) \end{cases}$$

- ✓ β is the infection rate I
- ✓ $\gamma \propto T^{-1}$ where T is the average time of recovery from the illness.

An Hidden Assumption

Perfect Mixing

S and I are uniformly distributed in space at all times

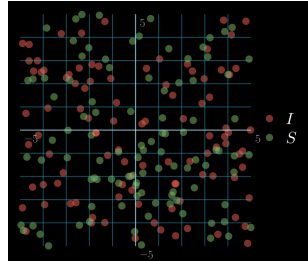
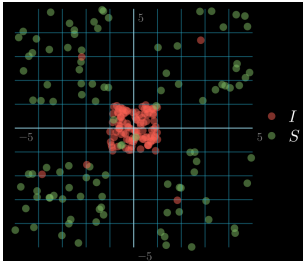


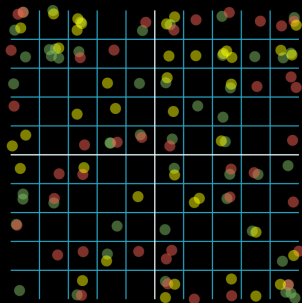
Figure: In the initial phases of an epidemic diffusion, the infected population I is not uniformly spread across space

Lattice Gas Cellular Automata (LGCA)

Particles and Cells

Particles moving on a lattice can interact only inside the same cell

$$Q = (\text{red}, \text{green}, \text{yellow}) = (I, S, R)$$



Particles Laws of Motion

At each time step n particles move to a neighbor cell

Uniqueness

At most one particle can reach a fixed neighbor cell

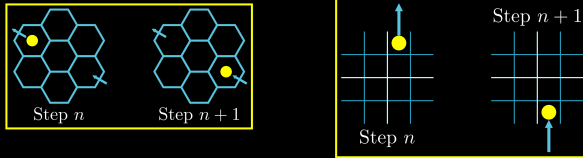
Randomness

The exit configuration is randomly selected

Motion's Directions



PacMan Effect



Epidemic Laws described

Evolution Rules

- Each particle of state I of a specific cell, infects a particle of state S of the same cell with probability β_{LG}
- With rate γ particles pass from state I to state R

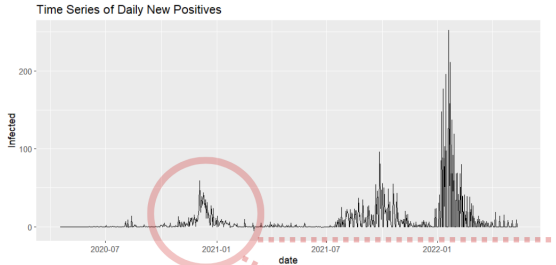
Epidemic Laws inside a cell

Let $I(c)$ be the number of infected in cell c and let $q_n(p)$ be the state of particle $p \in c$ at time step n , then

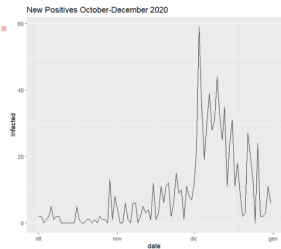
$$\begin{cases} \phi_c = \mathbb{P}(q_{n+1}(p) = S | q_n(p) = S) = (1 - \alpha_{LG})^{I(c)} \\ \psi_c = \mathbb{P}(q_{n+1}(p) = I | q_n(p) = S) = 1 - \phi_c \\ \mathbb{P}(q_{n+1}(p) = I | q_n(p) = I) = 1 - \beta_{LG} \\ \mathbb{P}(q_{n+1}(p) = R | q_n(p) = I) = \beta_{LG} \end{cases}$$

Covid-19 in Kodiak Island, Alaska

An overlook of data and estimated parameters

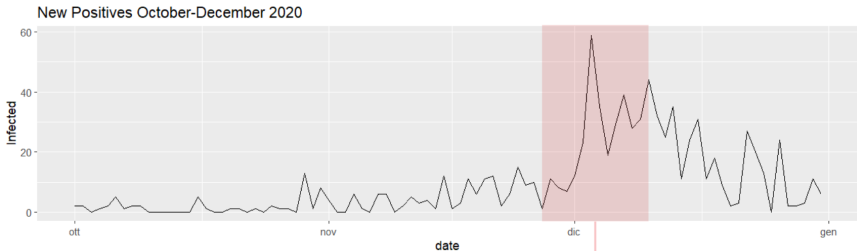


Parameter	Value
<chr>	<chr>
Starting Date	2020-10-01
Total Population	13100
Initial Population of Infected People	15
gamma	0.153846153846154
beta	0.34588132363107



Covid-19 in Kodiak Island, Alaska

How to estimate β from new confirmed cases

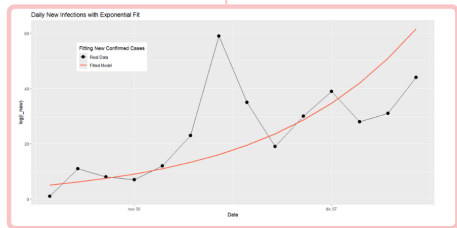


Assuming $S \approx N$ in the beginning of epidemic peak

$$\frac{dI}{dt} = \frac{\beta}{N} SI - \gamma I \approx (\beta - \gamma)I$$

Hence, if C is the number of new infected each day, we have

$$C = C_0 e^{(\beta - \gamma)t}$$



Covid-19 in Kodiak Island, Alaska

SIR and LGCA Simulation Results

LGCA

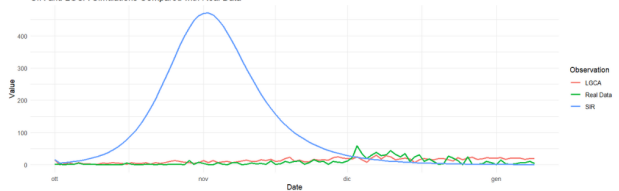
Parameter <chr>	Value <chr>
Starting Date	2020-10-01
Population	12996
L ₀	15
gamma	0.153846153846154
beta	0.34588132363107
cells	12996

SIR

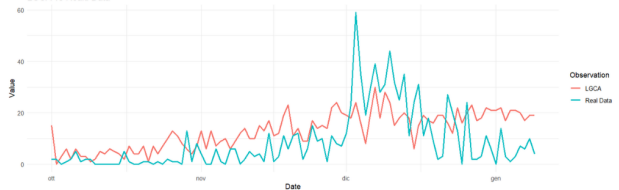
Parameter <chr>	Value <chr>
Starting Date	2020-10-01
Population	13100
L ₀	15
gamma	0.153846153846154
beta	3.23807026513713e-05

$$\beta_{LG} = \beta_{SIR} \cdot cells$$

SIR and LGCA Simulations Compared with Real Data

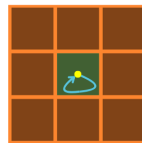
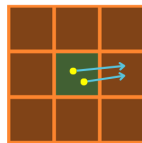
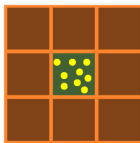
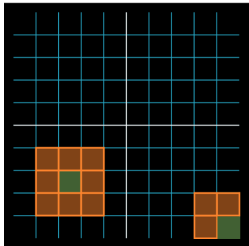


LGCA vs Reald Data



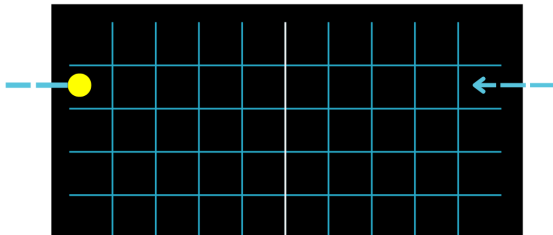
Modified LGCA algorithm

Neighbors

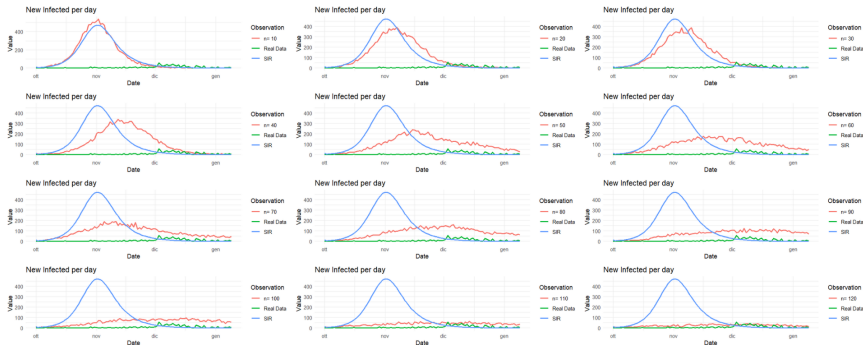


Yes

No



Modified LGCA Simulations

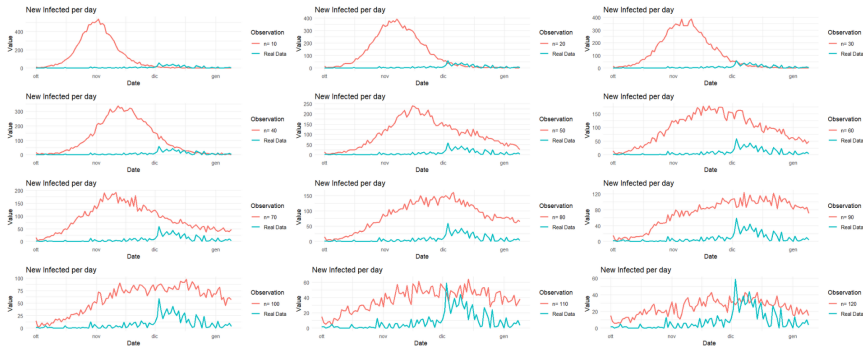


cells	beta_LG
100	0.002640315
400	0.010561262
900	0.023762839
1600	0.042245047
2500	0.066007886
3600	0.095051356
4900	0.129375457
6400	0.168980189
8100	0.213865551
10000	0.264031545

Parameter	Value
<chr>	<chr>
Starting Date	2020-10-01
Population	13100
L_0	15
gamma	0.153846153846154
beta	3.23807026513713e-05

$$\beta_{LG} = \beta_{SIR} \cdot \text{cells}$$

Modified LGCA Simulations

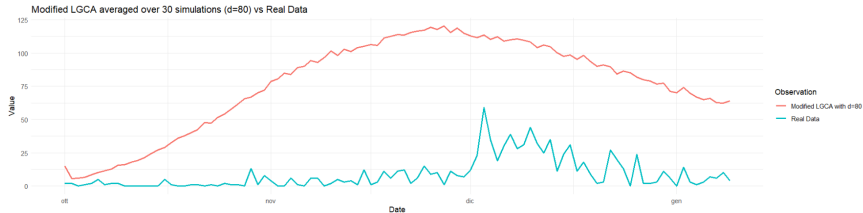


cells	beta_LG
100	0.002640315
400	0.010561262
900	0.023762839
1600	0.042245047
2500	0.066007886
3600	0.095051356
4900	0.129375457
6400	0.168980189
8100	0.213865551
10000	0.264031545

Parameter	Value
<chr>	<chr>
Starting Date	2020-10-01
Population	13100
L_0	15
gamma	0.153846153846154
beta	3.23807026513713e-05

$$\beta_{LG} = \beta_{SIR} \cdot cells$$

Modified LGCA Simulations



Parameter <chr>	Value <chr>
Starting Date	2020-10-01
Number of Simulations	30
Lattice Dimension	6400
beta_LG	0.168980188644187
gamma	0.153846153846154
I_0	15
Population	13100

Final Observations



Issues

Parameters and Initial Values Estimation,
Dataset Choice, Small Number of Simulations.



Open Questions

Link between parameters (e.g lattice dimension) and qualitative
behaviour of Modified LGCA, Stability of the solutions and dependence
on distributions and laws of motion



Conclusions

Modified LGCA seems to provide promising results into using lattice
based structures to model spatial diffusion in epidemic peaks,
specially for small populated areas

Bibliography



Günter Schneckenreither, Nikolas Popper, Günther Zauner, and Felix Breiteneker.

Modelling sir-type epidemics by odes, pdes, difference equations and cellular automata—a comparative study.

Simulation Modelling Practice and Theory, 16(8):1014–1023, 2008.



Junling Ma.

Estimating epidemic exponential growth rate and basic reproduction number.

Infectious Disease Modelling, 5:129–141, 2020.